

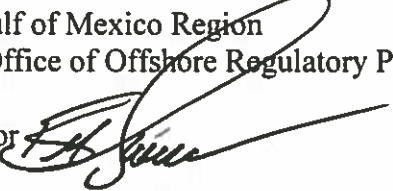


United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

June 12, 2015

Memorandum

To: Lars Herbst, Director, Gulf of Mexico Region
Douglas Morris, Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs

From: Brian M. Salerno, Director 

Subject: Loss of Well Control Investigation Report

I wish to thank you and your staff for the report entitled: *Investigation into the January 30, 2014 Loss of Well Control*. I appreciate your team's work on this initial evaluation, and upon my initial review, I generally concur with their recommendations. We will post a copy of the report on our website, and I ask that you and your team share the report with industry trade associations and standards development organizations.

While I will conduct a more detailed review of the report, I believe there are some immediate steps the Bureau can take to address your team's findings and recommendations.

I would like you and the Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs to initiate a research project to assess best practices related to the prevention of "swabbing" of the well during drilling operations in areas of known shallow gas. This project should provide recommendations related to the development of industry standards or regulations to ensure that risks are sufficiently minimized for shallow gas hazards.

I ask that you and your staff continue to monitor information related to shallow gas operations, and to update this report as new information becomes available and as you continue to discuss these issues with industry. I look forward to reviewing your implementation plan to more comprehensively address the team's recommendations.